

being home 4 or 5 days a week every week.

But I am worried about America, and I am worried that this House is not confronting the problems that America faces, because the workweek here in Congress is really too short to even be called a workweek. The normal congressional schedule, and this week is not a normal week, but the normal schedule is we come to Washington Tuesday afternoon for a few votes on Tuesday night; those are usually inconsequential votes such as, for example, renaming post offices. On Wednesday, sometimes there are some real votes, and sometimes on Thursday, usually Thursday morning. And then by Thursday afternoon our so-called workweek is over. Well, this is called the Tuesday-Thursday Club. I have been in Congress a number of years, there always was a Tuesday-Thursday club, but membership in that club used to be reserved for a few folks who happened to have congressional districts nearby in Virginia or Maryland, or, quite frankly, for some members who didn't really care about the job, who didn't want to attend all the hearings, who didn't want to participate in the debates, who didn't want to study the legislation and really face the problems that America faces.

Sadly, today, Mr. Speaker, pretty much everybody belongs to the Tuesday-Thursday Club. Because if you are here in Washington on Monday or Friday, you will discover that none of your colleagues are. No hearings are being held. No investigations are being conducted.

For example, the majority in their wisdom has abolished most all of the subcommittees that has the power to investigate because they simply do not want investigations to take place. Well, that is one of the primary functions of Congress, is to conduct what they call oversight. And that doesn't mean overlooking a problem. It means digging into a problem so you can find out exactly how taxpayer dollars are being spent.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are in this ironic situation with America confronting a myriad of problems, and here we are working less than any time in literally a half century, working less than any time since 1948.

It is time that this Congress got down to business to confront problems such as, for example, what my constituents back home want is an immigration bill. And the House passed one back last December. The Senate hopefully will pass one this week or next week. But then those two have to be reconciled into a bill that both Houses can support. With only a few days left in this entire session, how are we going to reconcile that legislation? Is it going to be a good bill when it is reconciled? The clock is ticking, Mr. Speaker. There is very little time left.

Let me mention one other issue that I think is of great concern to all Americans. If you have anyone in your fam-

ily who has been touched by the dread diseases of Parkinson's or Alzheimer's or diabetes or cancer or a stroke or heart disease, or any other of a myriad of diseases, you are probably interested, you are probably in strong support of embryonic stem cell research so that our brilliant scientists can try to discover cures for these dread diseases. The best information we have is that some 72 percent of the American people favor research in this area. They want it done. They want it done now. They want it done in America, too. They are not willing to outsource an entire area of scientific hope for our patients. But although this House passed a stem cell bill, the Senate has not, and we need action on that, because the House passed stem cells a year ago.

I see that my time is expired, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

With the words about Judith from the Hebrew scriptures, let us pray for each of the women who serve in our military forces:

"Strike up a song to our God. Let us sing a hymn of praise as we honor and call upon God's holy name.

"The Lord is our God who stamps out wars. Enemies have threatened us and set fire to our land. The young they have killed, and they have left us widows and orphans.

"Yet the Lord has fought back with a woman's hand. She took off her mourning cloak and has taken on a new beauty.

"Some were struck by her daring. Others stopped by her boldness. She has led her people with a shout of triumph, and the enemy became paralyzed with fear."

So let us sing a new hymn, in our day, to the Lord, for the strength of our God has been made known in the glory of this woman, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

NEW IRAQI GOVERNMENT: SUCCESS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and applaud the inauguration this past weekend of Iraq's new permanent unity government. For 3 years, democracy has been coming to Iraq, and now it is officially here.

Millions have participated in the process, voting and debating, and now the people of Iraq finally have their own sovereign, democratically elected government. The Iraqis have overcome huge obstacles, uncertainty, threats, violence and fear, but have continued to stand firm for the most noble of ideals, freedom and democracy.

In just 3 years, we have seen a tyrannical oppressive dictatorship removed and a fully sovereign democracy born. Their new government is one of unity with Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis all serving in prominent leadership roles. All the people of Iraq may proudly stand up and say, this is their government, their country, and they will honor and protect it.

Mr. Speaker, the historic significance of this event cannot be overestimated. From this day forward, we must always look at Iraq as a nation of independence, a nation of freedom and a nation of democracy. May it always be.

"NO COST" SUGAR PROGRAM

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is a Dear Colleague circulating on Capitol Hill that talks about our no-cost sugar subsidy program. I would suggest that each of our Congressional offices have a little contest, take the certified smart young interns that we have working for us and have a contest in your office. See how long it takes them to prove how bogus that claim is.

How long will it take them to find out that there is a \$1- to \$2 billion cost to the taxpayer and the consumer, that there are environmental costs for cleaning up the Everglades, that this program threatens over 500,000 American jobs in the candy industry that are being driven to Mexico and Canada